

The changing face of Potato virus Y: Why NY growers should be concerned about their source of seed potatoes

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Presentation Summary

This presentation will help growers, seed certification and regulatory officials, consultants, and other practitioners in the United States understand how and why Potato virus Y (PVY) is affecting the seed potato crop. If left unchecked PVY has the potential to change from being primarily a seed certification problem to become a major disease issue affecting tuber quality. Specifically I will address what PVY is and how it has changed in recent years, the reasons for the reemergence of PVY as a disease problem in seed potatoes, and finally what steps can and are being taken to manage the disease and prevent the newly introduced tuber necrotic strains of the virus from becoming a major quality issue for potato growers. By the end of this presentation, the practitioner should understand the emerging PVY problem and know more about the existing and developing strategies that seed certification programs and growers, especially seed growers, can use to control PVY. Management strategies are discussed both in terms of on-farm best management practices, and also what the national industry and regulatory agencies are considering implementing that will affect seed potato certification, and seed movement across state and international boundaries. For more information on PVY visit our project website – www.potatovirus.com. There is a Discussion Forum feature on the website that you are encouraged to join if you want additional information or if you want to share information.